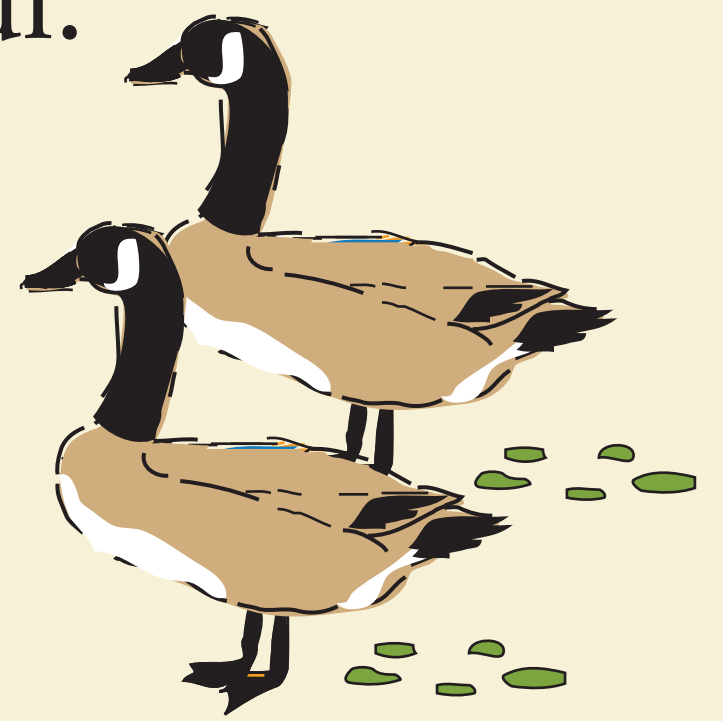


# Reasons Not To Feed Waterfowl & Alligators

Many people like to feed wildlife in lakes and waterways, but what seems like kindness can be very harmful. Here are several reasons not to feed waterfowl and alligators.

## Feeding waterfowl is not good for them or the environment.



Human food is junk food for ducks and geese. It lacks minerals needed to make strong, healthy birds.

Human-fed waterfowl suffer from more illness and disease because they are not consuming their natural diet of plants, seeds, berries, roots, shoots, insects, and aquatic invertebrates.



### Interferes with Nature

Feeding waterfowl artificially increases their local population causing them to over-winter here, which interferes with their natural breeding and migration patterns.

### Spreads Disease

Higher concentrations of waterfowl result in more feces and bacteria in and around a water body. Bacteria, such as e.coli, can be spread from waterfowl to humans. Also, bird-to-bird diseases can cause large die-offs of waterfowl.

### Promotes Algae

Waterfowl waste pollutes water because nutrients in their droppings cause green algae blooms and excessive aquatic weed growth. This can lead to low dissolved oxygen levels and fish kills.



## The animals living here are wild!

Feeding waterfowl is unhealthy, can make them sick, and causes water pollution.

Feeding alligators is illegal and hazardous for you and the alligator.

**Please be kind; don't feed them.**

## Feeding alligators is illegal and risky for you and them.

Feeding alligators is dangerous because it causes them to lose their natural fear of humans — making them more likely to approach and demonstrate aggressive behavior toward people and pets.

This unnatural behavior is dangerous for alligators too, because they may need to be captured and relocated or destroyed.

**NC General Statute §113-291.11 makes it unlawful to feed alligators in the wild.**